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All communications connected with the literary department, reports, correspondence, newspaper cuttings, etc., should be addressed to the editor.

Correspondents forwarding obituary and marriage notices are particularly requested to be as concise as possible.

**ANSWER TO CORRESPONDENT.**

M. C.—The head office is in Auckland.



'To promote the cause of Religion and Justice by the ways of Truth and Peace.'

LEO XIII to the N.Z. TABLET.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1900.

**A BROKEN STICK.**



R. PAUL LUDWIG ADALBERT FALK has passed away to the great Beyond. But for the fact that for a brief space he strutted upon the world's stage as a pigmy in the buskins of a NERO, the story of his life might have been told in as brief phrase as the autobiography of EMILE AUGIER: 'I was born in 1827. Since then nothing has happened to me.' He sprung into a brief notoriety of seven years' duration after his appointment by BISMARCK as Minister of Public Worship. FALK was merely the stick which the Iron Chancellor used to strike at the Church in Prussia. After a few blows it broke in his hand, the broken end was flung contemptuously over the wall. After the crowning victory over France, Germany—with Prussia at its head—was the greatest Power in Continental Europe since the days of the First NAPOLEON. BISMARCK was its real maker, its uncrowned king, its *de facto* ruler. No more masterful figure has appeared in Europe in the century that is so fast hurrying to its close. In the early flush of his great triumph over the French people the Man of Blood and Iron conceived the idea that the Vatican had been hostile to Prussia in the recent war, and that it would be, somehow, inimical to the interests of the newly-created German Empire. Nowadays